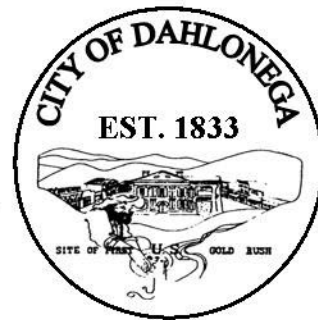


City Limits

News from the Government Offices of Dahlonega, Georgia

Vol.3, No. 2

May 2007



A Capitol Idea...

As they say, the squeaky wheel gets the grease. In the politics of money, that means the more often federal lawmakers are reminded about Dahlonega's need for funding for key projects, the more likely the city is to receive requested federal funds. Dahlonega's recent hiring of Troutman Sanders Public Affairs Group LLC ensures that Dahlonega's voice will be heard on Capitol Hill. A lobbyist is working in Washington, D.C., on behalf of Dahlonega on virtually a daily basis to identify funding sources and keep the city's requests in front of the right people. For example, the city has asked for \$5 million in federal funding to help pay for its \$22 million water treatment plant and delivery system. Also on the wish list: federal grant or loan monies to implement a streetscape master plan for downtown Dahlonega. Hiring a lobbyist to represent the city's interests at the capitol isn't a quick fix, says city manager Bill Lewis. It is something you invest in for the long term. But if the city gets even a fraction of the federal dollars it is seeking, hiring the lobbyist will have paid for itself and then some.

Sewer Upgrade Money Found

Dahlonega's ancient sewerage system has been in sore need of some pretty expensive upgrades. Along with the local Timken plant's expansion, announced last year, came even greater demands on the old sewer system. Thanks to a federal and state-funded Employment Incentive Program, the city is eligible for \$500,000 in grant funds to pay for infrastructure improvements that will support Timken's growth and new jobs. Those same sewer system upgrades will benefit many other citizens served by the same sewer line. But even counting on those funds left the city needing



nearly a half million dollars to do the project. Now it looks like \$280,000 more in grant money could bring the system upgrade within reach. The city learned recently its pre-application for an Appalachian Regional Commission grant was approved and submitted the full application, which is now under review. Based on the pre-application input, approval is likely, officials understand. That would leave the city to pay \$174,000 of the \$954,000 job. Engineering work is already complete, and crews will get started if or when the ARC grant is officially approved—this summer, they hope.



Role of City Government Recognized

The City of Dahlonega joined cities across the state in recognizing Georgia Cities Week April 22-28. Organized by the Georgia Municipal Association, the occasion is intended to emphasize the important role city government plays in our lives and to remind citizens of the responsibilities and opportunities they have to shape and influence this local branch of government. In addition to City Council's passing of a resolution in honor of Georgia Cities Week, the city hosted an open house and reception to mark the event and celebrate the contributions of neighbors, business owners and community leaders to city government.

Produce More Produce

Growing produce? Why not plant extra this year and sell part of your bounty at the Dahlonega Farmer's Market. The Farmer's Market is held from around 7am to 3pm every Tuesday and Saturday through October in Hancock Park, just a block off the Public Square. All you need is a \$10 permit for each month you participate and a table or truck to sell your produce from, and you're in business. You can sell any produce grown in Lumpkin County or one of the counties "touching" Lumpkin. It's early in the season, but shoppers are already turning out for fine quality produce, local honeys, jams and jellies, culinary herbs,



Conference-Plus

When City Councilman Michael Clemons and city manager Bill Lewis attended the National League of Cities Conference in March, they made every minute of their trip to Washington, D.C., count. In addition to what the conference had to offer, they spent considerable time with Congressional Reps. Nathan Deal and Saxby Chambliss, U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson and Rob Leebren, the city's newly contracted lobbyist, making a case for Dahlonega's need for federal funds. "It was a good, productive trip," says Bill, adding they were impressed with the level of knowledge and the number of contacts the city's new lobbyist has. "It's obvious walking through the Capitol and House Building that our lobbyist is well known and well respected on the Hill."



Winds of Change Felt at Park

The loss of Hancock Park's centerpiece gazebo due to high winds was a "blow" to Dahlonega, but where most people now just see a concrete pad on the ground, city leaders see something else: opportunity. They are thinking in terms of a larger, multi-purpose facility that could make the park an even better place to host festival activities, concerts, outdoor plays, art exhibits, the farmer's market and, in the winter, an ice skating rink. The city has asked a local architect to do a conceptual rendering of what such a facility could look like and next will seek input from stakeholders—those likely to use the park and plan events there—to make sure it functions well. When it comes time to build the facility, city manager Bill Lewis wants to make construction a real community event, "like an old fashioned barn raising," with people donating time, skills and money to make it happen.



decorative plants and dried flowers, garden seeds and more. Call Dahlonega City Hall for details. The Downtown Dahlonega Farmers Market is sponsored by the City of Dahlonega's Better Hometown Program and Downtown Development Authority.

City of Dahlonega . . . continued from reverse side

Waterworks:

Design work and permitting activities are underway for Dahlonega's new water treatment plant and delivery system. JJ&G engineering firm told council members recently the project is on track to have construction drawings complete in September. This would mean advertising for bids in October, with actual construction beginning in early 2008. JJ&G also said, in a bi-monthly report to council, the EPD-required Yahoola Watershed Assessment and Protection Plans both have been filed now, the first in November 2005, the second in March 2007. That project will be on hold until EPD's review and comments are received.



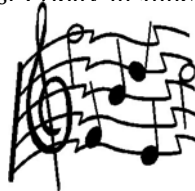
Streetscape Plan Planned

With all the growth coming in to the area, officials say downtown Dahlonega needs a streetscape master plan—and soon—to protect its character and charm. Council members and staff already have had an initial brainstorming session to discuss with Roger Staubach Architects what elements should be included. City manager Bill Lewis says Dahlonega has never had a plan dealing with the level of detail they are discussing now. It likely will include guidelines for everything from infrastructure and style of construction to green space, trees, lighting, benches and trash cans. The goals: streets and walkways that are safe and well functioning and street views that are attractive. The plan will cost \$150,000 to \$200,000, money well spent, city officials believe, to help ensure preservation, maintenance and development of a growing city. Possible sources of money to implement the streetscape master plan include a Transportation Enhancement grant the city will apply for and federal funds brought in from the city's beefed up lobbying efforts.



Music in the Park is Back

Be sure to reserve your evenings for the first Fridays of each month through September. *Music in the Park* is back. Sponsored by the city of Dahlonega's Better Hometown Program, the season got started in May with the Remember When band on the schedule. Love songs by Russo and Noe are slated for the first Friday in June. July will feature the Myers Family & Friends, sponsored by Strings and Things, followed by Fool's Gold of Dahlonega in August and Remember When returning to bookend the season. All performances are at 6:30pm in Hancock Park, weather permitting. And they're free! With the recent wind-driven downfall of the park gazebo, performances will be held under a large tent, and music lovers will be invited to relax in lawn chairs and on blankets on the grass, as always. Bring a picnic supper from home or from an area restaurant or—in June—try the Dahlonega Woman's Club BBQ.



Jams Back on the Square

Dahlonega's popular Appalachian Jam series is back, bringing North Georgia's mountain music pickers and singers to the Dahlonega Gold Museum State Historic Site on the Public Square Saturdays from 2-6pm through October. Acoustic bluegrass and old time string music outdoor jam sessions are open to all. There's never a charge to play, sing, listen or tap your toes. Appalachian Jam 2007 is produced by Dahlonega's Downtown Development Authority and Better Hometown Program and made possible by support from: the Georgia Council for the Arts' Grassroots Program, Bear on the Square Mountain Festival Committee, the Appalachian Studies Center at North Georgia College & State University, the Wiggins Group for Traditional Music, and the Dahlonega-Lumpkin County Chamber of Commerce and Convention & Visitors Bureau. Jams are presented in cooperation with the Dahlonega Merchants Association. Besides providing enjoyment for residents and visitors, the Appalachian Jams help preserve the area's music and culture and support the city's tourism industry.



Manganese Issue Fixed

It's not a foreign language or a new pork dish on the Chinese menu. Manganese is a naturally occurring element that turned out to be the culprit in a mystery that's foiled the city water department for some time. The manganese build-up in city pipes serving the North Hall and Skyline Drive areas wasn't harmful, but it gave the water a gray tint that made it unappealing to drink and not so great at getting whites their whitest in the laundry room. Once manganese was identified as the problem, it turned out to be nothing a good pipe line flushing and a \$20,000 filtration system couldn't fix. Based on recent water samples, the problem seems to be solved.



Water Meets Standards

The City of Dahlonega Water Department reports city drinking water met all safety and quality standards set by the federal EPA and the state in 2006. Monitoring and testing results are provided in the city's 2007 Water Quality Report. Copies are available at City Hall and online at www.cityofdahlonega.com. For details call John Jarrard at (706) 864-3591.



How May We Be of Service?



Question? Comment? Problem? Call City Hall at (706) 864-6133. We'll put you in touch with the right person.

City Council

Gary McCullough, Mayor
Michael Clemons
Guy Laboa
Gerald Lord
Sam Norton
Terry Peters
Bill Scott

Bill Lewis, City Manager

Please join us at our meetings!

Learn about your government by attending public meetings like these. Find the complete schedule at www.cityofdahlonega.com.

City Council: 1st Monday of each month at 6pm—City Hall

Planning/Zoning Commission: 2nd Monday of each month at 7pm—City Hall

Historic Preservation Commission: 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6pm—City Hall

Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority: 3rd Thursday of each month at 9am--City Hall

City of Dahlonega
A Better Hometown/
Main Street Community
465 Riley Rd.
Dahlonega, Georgia 30533
Phone 706-864-6133
Fax 706-864-4837
e-mail:
cityofdahlonega@alltel.net
www.cityofdahlonega.com